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The PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE.

Containing the Freſheſt Advices, Foreign and Domeſtic.

To the Printers of the PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE.

GENTLEMEN,

That freedom of the preſs in which Cato ſo much rejoices, will induce you, and every other printer of Cato's letters, to do the juſtice to Caſſandra to publiſh this, with my piece on ſending Commiſſioners to treat with the Congreſs, in your next papers, which will be a better proof of their freedom than any thing Cato has advanced.

CASSANDRA.

CASSANDRA to CATO.

SIR,

I THOUGHT you had forgotten the fatal 7th of Nov. 1774, on which all your ambitious projects were blaſted by a public vote of your fellow-citizens, to divide from the county in their choice of Committee-men, and to hold all future elections by ballot; but I find I was miſtaken. While Committees were choſen by holding up of hands, and letters from millers and popular harrangues could be employed to ſerve the purpoſes of your party, tho' Cato *could write*, yet no preſs teemed with his lucubrations. But now that public buſineſs is carried on in the only way which can ſecure the people from undue influence, and the party has ſuffered a total defeat in their electioneering attempts, his maſterly pen is called forth into the field of political controverſy, and with a few daſhes of it he has overſet our Committee of Inſpection, demoliſhed the whole tribe of patriotic ſcribblers in news-papers, and laid *Common Senſe* in the dirt, taken a catalogue of all the whigs and tories in the province, converted 36 Commiſſioners, about to be ſent over to inſult us with terms no one can accept, into Ambaſſadors of peace, and poor Caſſandra into an enthuſiaſt, madman, barbarian and drunken independant. Wretched muſt the lot of that whig be, who falls into the hands of this fiery defender of miniſterial ſtratagems. Daniel may be protected from the jaws of the lions, but alas! who can protect us when Cato is rouſed? The whole band of us is cruſhed to atoms with one graſp of his hand. Why did you aſſure us that no perſons need be alarmed, for that no indecent nor angry expreſſion ſhould diſhonour your pen? Was it that the ſuddenneſs of our deſtruction might heighten its terror? Well has the ſcriptures aſſured us, that the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.

Your *grievous* paragraph about reſtraining the preſs is ſo notorious a falſhood, that I boldly put you to defiance to point out the inſtance. And when you give the public the names of the *few* who turned the mode of electing Committees out of the channel of corruption, and thereby excluded you and your colleagues, I will undertake to mention the other *few*, who, contrary to every principle of our conſtitution, by a proſtitution of the cry of public neceſſity, are endeavouring to cloak an unbounded hatred to our preſent cauſe under an affected zeal for conſtitutional dependance, and who have nearly effected their malicious purpoſes of deſtroying their own liberties, to be avenged of their enemies. But let not Cato too far provoke the MAJESTY OF THE PEOPLE OF PENNSYLVANIA, by the bold flouriſhes of a pen which pays no reſpect to truth, leſt he may find it expedient to end his days on the principles of *dependancy*.

" Few perſons," ſays Cato, " gave themſelves any con-
" cern about the election of a Committee of Inſpection,
" being well ſatisfied that any number of reſpectable ci-
" tizens, who would take the trouble of ſuch a Com-
" mittee, ſhould be thankfully indulged with the office,
" and although it conſiſts of a hundred members, they
" had not two hundred votes." Caſſandra begs leave to inform Cato, that our Committees of Inſpection, ever ſince choſen by ballot, got poſſeſſion of their office by a more reſpectable number of voters than any Burgeſs which ſat in the Houſe of Aſſembly ſince the firſt day in which a compariſon could be made, as he can make appear by the ſtate of the ſeveral elections.

" In carrying on our great controverſy with England,
" Pennſylvania (ſay you) has no need either to make the
" leaſt ſacrifice of its conſtitution, nor yet to yield in
" zeal to the foremoſt of the colonies." This aſſertion might paſs for truth on the coaſt of Labradore, or in the Deſarts of Siberia; but the PEOPLE of *Pennſylvania* muſt have drunk deep of the waters of oblivion, and laid aſide all pretenſions to recollection, before they can conſider ſuch aſſertions in any other light than inſults on their underſtanding. Can Cato inform them of the ſingle meaſure that can be purſued in the line of our charter conſtitution? I ſhould gladly view the paragraph which gives our Aſſembly the power of legiſlating without the Governor; and Cato is too well acquainted with the King's Repreſentative, to believe he would ever give his ſanction to our oppoſition. Name the Act of Aſſembly, Cato, which makes legal tender of the money they have ſo patriotically ſtruck, and I will believe you have for *once* ſtrayed into the truth. But becauſe our Repreſentatives can do nothing legal without the Governor, therefore Cato is fiery hot for confining our oppoſition to them, and not to a Convention, which is under no ſuch reſtrictions. The intereſt of the Governor, and not of the people, is plainly Cato's.

" The great privilege (you add) which we enjoy, of
" giving our free unbiaſſed voice annually in the choice
" of an Aſſembly, who from that moment, by charter,
" become a conſtitutional body, veſted with the autho-
" rity of the people, and can meet when they pleaſe, and
" ſit as long as they judge neceſſary."—Here, Sir, you prudently drop the conſideration of their being a conſtitutional body. Had you pointed out the advantages of conſtitutionally meeting and ſitting, when they can conſtitutionally do no more, you had told us ſomething.—But this, alas! was out of your power. So much for your firſt letter.

In your ſecond you begin by ſaying, that you know not on what grounds I have ſatisfied myſelf that the ſole view of Adminiſtration in this commiſſion is to amuſe and deceive, to bribe and corrupt us. It may be ſo, Sir; tho' I hope you have not the vanity to ſet up your knowledge as the ſtandard of truth. Did you read the piece, and attempt to pick to pieces the principles and arguments on which my advice is founded? I begin to think you did, and finding them too hard to overturn, you vent your ſpleen in railing at the author. But do you recollect Lord North's conciliatory plan, and his explanation of it, viz. *ſubſtantial revenue—divide et impera*, &c. Do you remember the King's ſpeech at the opening of the preſent ſeſſions of Parliament, and the re-echo of both Houſes, the extenſive plan of warlike operations which he means to carry on againſt us, and his appointing perſons who ſhall on the ſpot diſpenſe *moſt gracious pardons* to all ſuch as ſhall acknowledge their faults, and plead forgiveneſs? A *new ſpecies* of *ambaſſadors*, not heretofore taken notice of by the writers on the laws of nature and nations. Do you remember Gen. Gage's plan for diſarming the people of Boſton, and the faith he obſerves in treaties, and that Howe, his ſucceſſor, purſues the ſame infernal plan? or have you totally forgot what the Prime Miniſter ſaid, on his declaring that he was ready to reſtore us to the ſtate we were in before the year 1763, for that we did not then deny the right of Parliament to tax America? or do you forget that every propoſal for reconciliation, made by the friends of America in Parliament, was rejected without a diviſion? Had Cato remembered theſe things, or if he can be brought to remember them, he will have as much reaſon to ſuſpect the deſigns of the Commiſſioners as Caſſandra. Perhaps it ſuits not with Cato's plan to remember theſe things, tho' he can recollect many others of a much earlier date. Cato may be much better acquainted with our ſavage neighbours than Caſſandra, as doubtleſs he has traverſed the uncultivated woods of America more frequently than he; yet it may not be an eaſy matter to convince the people of this province, that the dread of loſing all hopes of preferment, if the council of Caſſandra is taken, has not called forth this champion for an *undefined dependance* from that obſcurity into which he has nearly fallen. It remains a doubt with me, whether the hiſtoric page will ever tranſmit your name to poſterity as the firſt American D---t--y, if you are not permitted to ſhake hands with the Commiſſioners, and allowed the opportunity of explaining your myſterious conduct. I ſhall long turn over the volumes which eſtabliſh the principles of the laws of nature and nations, before I read of Ambaſſadors of Peace attended with Acts of Parliament to confiſcate, and Royal Proclamations to divide, the property of thoſe they are to treat with, and backed by immenſe armies of Miniſterial cut-throats, to enforce their demands. Cato's great reading, no doubt, can ſupply the public with a few inſtances of untutored ſavages receiving Ambaſſadors *thus attended* with reſpect and hoſpitality, and ſmoaking the calumet of peace with them. However, until he does, I truſt he will grant to Caſſandra the liberty of thinking otherwiſe, and do him the juſtice to believe that he knows as much about the rights of Ambaſſadors as Cato. Caſſandra confeſſes that he is greatly concerned for our virtue, leſt we ſhould be cajoled, deceived and corrupted. Cato is not ſo. Corruption may be more familiar to Cato, which will fully account for our difference in ſentiment. I am ſo much of a chriſtian to pray that we may not be led into temptation; this, Sir, may form no part of your devotion. But if Cato is ſo eaſy on the ſcore of this treaty, becauſe it is to be managed by men delegated for their integrity and abilities by the voice of their country, why is he enraged at my attempt to confine them to theſe virtuous Delegates? Caſſandra is not afraid of the Delegates; it is to keep our modern Catos from doing us miſchief that he is ſo anxiouſly concerned. And if Cato has read his propoſal, he knows it to be ſo. But, Cato, had you adopted a ſignature correſpondent with your deſigns, my preſent reply might be unneceſſary; and if you yet change your preſent one for Syphax, Sempronius or Iago, I may ſpare the printer much of my intended lucubrations. I believe the world will readily agree with me, that either of the three would be truly characteriſtic of your preſent deſigns, if not of your general character as a man and a politician.

The cup out of which Caſſandra has drank, was never employed to offer libations at the altar of Royal deſpotiſm, or Proprietary influence. He knows no guide but reaſon and love of mankind, as he neither wiſhes nor expects to be Prime Miniſter to any future *would be* King of Pennſylvania. He is always ready to defend his rights at the riſque of his life, and prefers preſent war to future ſlavery, being conſcious that a great continent will be much happier with the one than the other. Britain has riſen triumphant, in a very few years, out of bloodier wars than ever America has been or will be called to, but Egypt has not, for thouſands of years, recovered from the yoke of foreign oppreſſion.

Caſſandra longs to ſee your bold declaration made good; but why ſo long about it, Goddeſs, and about it. Come to the point Sir! The preſſes are very open for the reception of your wonderful productions. But I beſeech you, dear Sir, to lay aſide groundleſs declamation for the future, and ſpeak a language which facts will ſupport. The people of Pennſylvania, I truſt, will ever have the good ſenſe to prefer COMMON SENSE to the appeals of any government tool, which may appear in defence of a union with thoſe who know no law, human or divine, but the law of violence and murder, and who have their Catos in all quarters to delude and deceive, men who ſell their conſciences for the proſpect of future advantages. Dont be angry Cato. Give your name to the public, and I will ſtand corrected if I have miſſed my object.

You make a great clamour becauſe we have been conſtantly enlarging our views, and ſtretching them beyond the firſt bounds. But let me tell you Cato, that nothing can be a greater proof of your iniquitous deſigns than your preſent attempt to confine them. Has not Adminiſtration firſt paſſed a Declaratory Act, then an Act laying duties on Paper, Painters Colours, &c. then their Acts to export their Teas to America, then a Boſton Port-Act, an Act to deſtroy the Charter of Maſſachuſetts, a Reſtraining Act, &c. &c. Acts to confiſcate our property, and levy the moſt cruel and unjuſt war againſt us? Have not they been conſtantly enlarging their plans to the laſt of all acts of tyranny, murder and robbery, and are we to remain inſenſible all this time, and never enlarge our views? Where would be the wiſdom of all this, Cato?

You artfully introduce quotations from the proceedings of Congreſs to lead the people aſtray, by producing extracts which you know neither can nor do ſpeak the ſentiments of Congreſs on the ſubject. Congreſs early ſpoke their ſentiments on that head, but Cato could not recollect the paſſage. It did not coincide with his plan of impoſing on the PEOPLE OF PENNSYLVANIA. " Between theſe Colonies and the people of Britain," ſays the Congreſs, in their addreſs to the inhabitants of the colonies, publiſhed in their reſolves of September 5, 1774, " ſubſiſts the ſocial band, which we ardently wiſh *may*
" *never* be diſſolved, and which *cannot* be diſſolved, *un-*
" *til* their minds ſhall become *indiſputably hoſtile*, or their
" *inattention* ſhall permit thoſe who are thus hoſtile to
" perſiſt in proſecuting with the powers of the realm the
" deſtructive meaſures already operating againſt theſe co-
" lonies, and in *either* caſe, ſhall reduce the latter to
" ſuch a ſituation, that they ſhall be compelled to re-
" nounce every regard but that of ſelf-preſervation."—This was the opinion of Congreſs at that time. I will leave it to Cato to determine, whether both, or either, of the caſes there mentioned have not taken place. Cato does not claſs himſelf with Caſſandra, and the writers on that ſide of the queſtion. This does not much trouble Caſſandra, I aſſure you Sir, in as much as he can claſs his own with the ſentiments of the celebrated Dr. Smith, who, in his addreſs to the graduates in May laſt, ſays, " The glory of every country is its LIBERTY, its
" INDEPENDANCY, and its Improvements in Commerce,
" Arts and Religion;" and I believe the ſentiments of this Gentleman are as much eſteemed among thoſe of your party as the ſentiments of Cato.

CASSANDRA.

On ſending COMMISSIONERS to treat with the CONGRESS.

THE man who would penetrate all the deſigns, and thoroughly acquaint himſelf with the ſeveral manœuvres of the Britiſh government, ought carefully to attend to two objects. The prime miniſter is always conſidered as the central wheel of all government movements, and the eyes of every one are fixed upon him, and his motions alone attended to. But in the preſent caſe, where he is confeſſedly oſtenſible, the affair is quite otherwiſe, and he who wiſhes to diſtinguiſh between the meaſures which proceed from the real miniſter, and will be proſecuted, and thoſe which the oſtenſible is directed to hold out, as barrels to a whale, may perhaps find the true clue to guide through the labyrinth in the following obſervations.

Great-Britain has ſteadily and invariably purſued one courſe of conduct towards theſe colonies for the laſt twelve years, and yet politicians have conſtantly charged her with fickleneſs and a want of a regular plan. He who diſcerns the true cauſe of this inconſiſtent conſiſtency, can point out its nature, end and uſe, and ſhew that this fickleneſs demonſtrates the firmeſt ſtedfaſtneſs, ſees into the bottom of the preſent Britiſh policy, and comprehends all her meaſures. This knowledge I wiſh every member of the Honourable Continental Congreſs poſſeſſed of, with virtue and ſpirit ſufficient to withſtand all their efforts to deſtroy our liberties.

As ſoon as the Parliament is called, the King gives certain intimations of his deſigns, and applies for the approbation and ſupport of the Commons. Here we have a ſmall opening of the deſigns of the Cabinet, no more being communicated than is abſolutely neceſſary for obtaining a general concurrence and vote of aids from Parliament. This being once obtained by way of Addreſs, a new plan opens, and that ſpirit, which was rouſed by this diſcovery of the real deſigns of the government, is laid aſleep as quickly as poſſible, and the real miniſter now retiring behind the curtain, the oſtenſible one ſucceeds to his place. You may therefore obſerve, that as ſoon as the hands of the ſecret cabinet are let looſe by loyal addreſſes, things take a new turn in Parliament immediately; and the prime miniſter, as if totally forſaking the high ground he had lately taken poſſeſſion of, begins to open new plans of a very different nature from that held out in the ſpeech from the throne, and recommended in the addreſſes of both Houſes of Parliament. The King and his cabal go to work with all the ſecrecy and vigour they are maſters of, and Lord North aſſumes his new character, which is that of the deceiver of America, and amuſer of the nation. And he has hitherto played his part ſo well, that all has gone on to their mind. He laſt year rendered them inviſible, even to their own party, and had like to loſe all by it, ſo that he was forced to take off the maſk and partly diſcover himſelf before he could carry matters in the Houſe. Any one, who remembers his motion, will feel the force of what is here related, and he who recollects that ſaid motion arrived but a few weeks before the order for ſeizing Meſſieurs Hancock and Adams, which opened the preſent ſcene of the war, muſt perceive that he acted in the capacity I have aſſigned him. Even they who entertain the moſt indifferent opinion of the adminiſtration, were, by this motion, induced to believe, for a time, that they meant to give up the matter.

[*For the Remainder ſee the Fourth Page.*]

TO THE PEOPLE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

LETTER III.

WHEN I sat down to address you, a resolve or vote of our *Committee of Inspection* for calling a CONVENTION had alarmed many good friends of the province, on account of our Charter-constitution; and therefore I determined freely to examine the right of the Committee to convene such a body, the necessity of their being convened, the powers which they might assume, and the confusion such a measure must produce. But in the evening of the same day on which my first letter was published, we were acquainted, "by order and in behalf of the Committee," that they had *recalled* their former vote; and therefore, as the resolution for this *recal* was probably formed before my publication, I shall claim no merit in it. The public seems willing to ascribe it to motives of prudence, suggested by the general disapprobation of the *Convention-Scheme*,—the zeal shewn among all ranks of people for the support of our ancient government by Assemblies, and the little prospect that any regard would have been paid to the edicts of a body of men, constituted without necessity, even if we could suppose any number of our County Committees willing to unite in assuming powers which were never delegated to them.

But those who correspond in behalf of the Committee give us other reasons than the above. They tell us, that they have held a "conference with several members of Assembly," and have, in behalf of this province, told them their duty—that the said members have promised all future attention to the same—but that the Committee, watchful for our good, and not willing to trust them too far, still hold the rod over them, and therefore have not annulled their vote, but have only been graciously pleased to forbear, "*for the present, the forwarding the letters*" [or issuing the writs] for "calling a *Convention*.

This is rather spoken in a lordly style, if it be any thing more than the assuming language of the *few* who correspond in the name of the Committee. But if there be those who think a *back* door more honourable for a *retreat* than the *front*, I would not wound their dignity, nor throw a straw in the way to retard them. It is probable that our Assembly may now be permitted to exercise their own judgment, without further attempts to intimidate them in the discharge of the important trust committed to them by the voice of their country; and therefore, as I would avoid contention at all times, and especially at this dangerous crisis, I shall likewise *for the present* forbear sending to the press every thing which I had prepared in vindication of our injured Representatives, except so far as relates to INDEPENDENCY. But that topic I propose, as occasion offers, to handle at some length. For I find the chief resentment levelled against them, appears to be on account of their instructions to their Delegates. These, in the eyes of some men, stand as an insurmountable barrier in the way of their destructive purposes, and I trust will continue so to stand till removed by the clear sense of an uncorrupted majority of the good people of this province. Without full proofs of this, the Assembly can neither consent to any change of our constitution, or to make the least transfer of our allegiance; and these proofs ought to be more pure than what can flow through the foul pages of interested writers, or strangers intermeddling in our affairs, and avowedly pressing their republican schemes upon us, at the risque of all we hold valuable. Nor would I be willing to receive these proofs from Committees, as proposed in the Evening Post of the 9th instant, by one who signs himself "*A Lover of Order*," but should be styled an *Author of Confusion*.

"It would be proper, says he, that the constituents of "the Congress should declare their sentiments upon that "head [INDEPENDENCE] as soon as possible. This may "be done by the various *Committees* and *Conventions* on "the continent. *Their* votes and resolves should determine the question in the Congress. The first Congress "was nothing but the ECHO of *Committees* and *Conventions*. In the present important question concerning "INDEPENDENCE, the Congress SHOULD *only*, as in the "former case, ECHO back the sentiments of the people," that is of *Committees* and *Conventions*. And thus we may be ECHOED and RE-ECHOED out of our liberties, our property, our happiness, and plunged deeper and deeper into all the growing horrors of war and bloodshed, without ever being consulted! For I insist upon it, that no Committees were ever entrusted with any authority to speak the sense of the People of Pennsylvania on this question. I have already observed by how few voices our largest Committee of *a hundred* was chosen; and I know some counties where the whole Committee was named by six or seven voices only. At this rate three or four hundred people would take upon them to declare the sense of as many *hundred thousands*, in a matter of the greatest importance that ever came before us! Can you, my countrymen, acquiesce in such a horrible doctrine? or does not the bare mention of it still further convince you that your liberties can no where be so safe as in the hands of your Representatives in Assembly? "Those who are not "inebriated with *Independency* will certainly allow, that "the instructions to their Delegates were dictated by "the true spirit of peace, justice and exalted policy. "Who so proper to instruct them as those chosen by "yourselves, not in the hour of passion, riot and confusion, but in the day of peace and tranquil reflexion?" These words I borrow from a pamphlet just published under the title of *Plain Truth*; which I would recommend to your perusal, as containing many judicious remarks upon the mischevious tenets and palpable absurdities held forth in the pamphlet so falsely called *Common Sense*.

I have, in my second letter, freely declared my *political creed* viz.—"That the true interest of America lies in "*reconciliation* with Great-Britain, upon Constitutional "Principles, and that I wish it upon none else." I now proceed to give my reasons for this declaration. It is fit, in so great a question, that you should weigh both sides well, and exercise that good sense for which the inhabitants of these colonies have been hitherto distinguished; and then I shall be under no apprehensions concerning the pernicious, though specious plans, which are every day published in our news-papers and pamphlets. The people generally judge right, when the whole truth is plainly laid before them; but through inattention in some, and fondness for novelty in others, when but one side of a proposition is agitated and persevered in, they may gradually deceive themselves, and adopt what cooler reflection and future dear-bought experience may prove to be ruinous.

Agriculture and commerce have hitherto been the happy employments, by which these *middle Colonies* have risen into wealth and importance. By them the face of the country has been changed from a barren wilderness into the hospitable abodes of peace and plenty. Without them, we had either never existed as Americans, or existed only as savages.—The oaks would still have possessed their native spots of earth, and never have appeared in the form of ships and houses. What are now well cultivated fields, or flourishing cities, would have remained only the solitary haunts of wild beasts, or of men equally wild.

That much of our former felicity was owing to the protection of England is not to be denied; and that we might still derive great advantages from her protection and friendship, if not valued at too high a price, is equally certain; nor is it worth enquiring, whether that protection was afforded us more for her own sake than ours? That the former was the case, more especially since the Colonies grew into consequence, I have not the least doubt, but that this is a reason for our rejecting any future connexion with her I must utterly deny. Although I consider her as having, in her late conduct towards us, acted the part of a cruel *Step-dame*, and not of a fostering Parent, I would not therefore quarrel with the benefits I may reap from a connexion with her, and can expect to reap no where else. If by her fleets and armies every nation on the globe is deterred from invading our properties, either on the high seas, in foreign countries, or on our own coasts, ought we not in sound policy to profit by her strength; and, without regarding the motives of her conduct, embrace the opportunity of becoming rich and powerful in her friendship, at an expence far less than it would cost us merely to exist in alliance with any other power?

If our present differences can be accommodated, there is scarce a probability that she will ever renew the late fatal system of policy, or attempt to employ force against us. But should she be so infatuated, at any future period, as to think of subjugating us, either by the arts of corruption, or oppressive exertions of power, can we entertain a doubt but that we shall again, with a virtue equal to the present, and with the weapons of defence in our hands (when necessary) convince her that we are willing, by a constitutional connexion with her, to afford and receive reciprocal benefits; but, although subjects of the same King, we will not consent to be her slaves. It was on *this ground*, and not for the purpose of trying new forms of government, "or erecting separate Independent States," that America embarked in the present glorious contest. On *this ground*, and upon none else, the *Continental Union* is formed. On this ground, we have a powerful support among the true Sons of Liberty in Great-Britain; and lastly, upon this ground, we have the utmost assurance of obtaining a full redress of our grievances, and an ample security against any future violation of our just rights. And if hereafter, in the fullness of time, it shall be necessary to separate from the land that gave birth to our ancestors, it will be in our state of perfect manhood, when we can fully weild our own arms, and protect our commerce and coasts by our own fleets, without looking to any nation upon earth for assistance.

This I say was our ground, and these our views, universally declared from the origin of this contest, till within a few weeks ago, when some gleams of reconciliation began first to break in upon us. If we now mean to change this ground, and reject all propositions of *peace*, from that moment we are deserted by every advocate of our cause in Great-Britain. We falsify every declaration which the Congress hath heretofore held forth in our behalf. We abandon all prospect of preserving our importance by trade and agriculture, the ancient, sure and experienced road to wealth and happiness.

In short, if thus contradicting all our former public professions, we should now affect *Independency* as our own act, before it appears clearly to the world to have been forced upon us by the cruel hand of the Parent-state,—We could neither hope for *Union* nor *Success* in the attempt. We must be considered as a faithless people in the sight of all mankind, and could scarcely expect the confidence of any nation upon earth, or look up to heaven for its approving sentence. On the contrary, every convulsion, attendant upon revolutions and innovations of government, untimely attempted or finally defeated, might be our portion; added to the loss of trade for want of protection; the consequent decay of husbandry; bloodshed and desolation; with an exchange of the easy and flourishing condition of farmers and merchants, for a life, at best, of hardy poverty as *soldiers* or *hunters*.

To see America reduced to such a situation may be the choice of adventurers who have nothing to lose, or of men exalted by the present confusions into *lucrative* offices, which they can hold no longer than the continuance of the public calamities. But can it be the wish of all that great and valuable body of people in America, who, by honest industry, have acquired a competency, and have experienced a happier life.—Can it be their wish, I say (for such considerations) to have destruction continually before their eyes; and to have enormous debts entailed upon them and their posterity, till at length they have nothing left which they can truly call their own?

I know the answers which will be given to these questions, and am prepared to reply to them, with that temper and gravity which so serious a subject requires. It will be *asserted*—indeed it has been already *asserted*—that the animosities between Great-Britain and the Colonies are now advanced to such a height, that RECONCILIATION is impossible. But *assertions* are nothing, when opposed to the nature of things, the truth of history, and all past experience. The quarrels of nations, being neither *personal* or *private*, cannot stir up mutual hatred among individuals. There never was a war so implacable, even among states naturally rivals and enemies, or among savages themselves, as not to have *peace* for its object as well as end! And, among people naturally friends, and connected by every dearer tie, who knows not that their quarrels (as those of *lovers*) are often but a stronger renewal of *love*? In such cases, the tide of affection reverting to its course is like that of water long pent back, which, at length bursting the opposing mounds, breaks forward through its native channel, and flows with redoubled vigor and encreased velocity, to mix itself with its parent-main!

It has been further asserted—that we are able, with our land forces, to defend ourselves against the whole world; that if commerce be an advantage, we may command what foreign alliances we please; that the moment we declare ourselves an *independent people*, there are nations ready to face the British thunder, and become the carriers of our commodities for the sake of enriching themselves; that, if this were not the case, we can soon build navies to force and protect a trade; that a confederacy of the Colonies into one great *republic* is preferable to *Kingly government*, which is the appointment of the *Devil*, or at least reprobated by GOD; that those denominated *wise men*, in our own and foreign countries, who have been so lavish of their encomiums upon the English constitution, were but egregious *fools*; that it is nothing better than a bungling piece of machinery, standing in need of constant *checks* to regulate and continue its motions; that the nation itself is but one mass of corruption, having at its head a *Royal Brute*, a hardened *Pharaoh*, delighting in blood; that we never can enjoy liberty in connection with such a country, and therefore all the hardships mentioned above, and a thousand times more, if necessary, are to be endured for the preservation of our rights.

If these things had been as fully proved, as they are boldly asserted by the authors of what is called *Common Sense*, I should here drop my pen; and through the short remainder of life, take my chance of whatever miseries Providence may have in reserve for this land, as I know of none else to which I can retire. But as these doctrines contradict every thing which we have hitherto been taught to believe respecting government, I hope you, my dear countrymen, have yet kept *one ear open* to hear what answer may be given in my future letters.

CATO.

POSTSCRIPT.

CATO to TIBERIUS, GREETING.

Questions civilly proposed deserve a civil answer, which shall be speedily given to those of *Tiberius*. Urbanity becomes US ROMANS; and *Cato* is proud to correspond with one assuming that character, although he is not fond of the *imperial name*. He has no quarrel with our Committee as a public body, and regards many of the members as fit to fill any station to which they may be called by their country. If he cannot support his charges against the individuals who projected the *Convention-scheme*, he will chearfully acknowledge his mistake. He never expected to finish these letters without opposition. The question is, whether the liberty and happiness of America can be best secured by a constitutional reconciliation with Great-Britain, or by a total separation from it? Cato is willing to be judged by his countrymen, when the whole of his arguments shall be submitted to them. Whatever may be insinuated before that time he will scarce think worthy of regard; and it was rather unbecoming *Tiberius*, so early in the dispute, to suggest, that "the *sentiments* "(in the letters) may resemble a *modern* (more than an "ancient) Cato, who will consent to *live a slave*, rather "than *to die free*." The inaccuracy of expression, in making *sentiments resemble men*, may be passed over; for where a person's meaning can be picked out, in such a contest as this, Cato despises a *war* about *words*.

N. B. The twelve queries in the Evening Post are, in substance, the same as the questions of *Tiberius*, and the same answer will serve for both.

LONDON, *December* 16.

IN yesterday's debate, the Duke of Richmond having, with a poignant delicacy, alluded to certain clamorous advocates of administration, who even the first day of the present session had also voted with the friends of the people; but being now in a new station, with a fat place, were rendered totally adverse to themselves on a former occasion. He also, with his usual manly freedom, repeated his honest indignation at the present nefarious system to subjugate America, and called the regulations from beginning to end tyrannical and despotic. But in the reply, Lord Lyttleton, to throw some mist over his own late defection, after asserting that he did not acknowledge himself bound by the recent, unmerited obligations dealt forth to him, he forewarned the noble Duke, that if he continued in his place to abuse the acts once passed by the whole legislature, he himself would the next time move to take the sense of the House on his future behaviour. This menace brought up again the noble Duke, who reworded all his epithets, adding others still more pointed and severe, and declared, that King, Lords and Commons, could not alter the indefeasible nature of justice and injustice, nor bend an intrepid, honest man, into a base and servile compliance with the sense of a majority, whilst he retained his own convictions of the immutable nature of truth. He said, the bill before them being altogether of the same complexion with the other links in the chain of despotism now forging, that he had a parliamentary right to express fully his honest indignation at all such matters, whilst they continued to be agitated in that Assembly. This doctrine was reprobated by Lord Bute's friend, the vociferous Lord Denbigh, who among other allegations held forth, that if any Peer or subject conceived that neither his Majesty nor any of the House of Hanover had a just right to the crown of these realms, yet none would in this clamorous Peer's opinion be mad enough to make such declaration. To this his Grace shortly and pertinently replied, he joined in opinion with the noble Earl, that not one of them all could be found mad enough NOW. By this answer, and by the foresight of another ministerial advocate, the Duke was admitted to have sufficiently explained his words, though he asserted he had not, nor would he on any future day explain his principles AWAY.

Jan. 2. By a letter from Cork, dated Dec. 23, we are informed, that the Marquis of Rockingham transport, which sailed from Portsmouth, with the 32d regiment on board, was wrecked between Cork and Kinsale the 22d, when Lieutenant Marsh, Ensign Sandiman, the Captain of the ship, all the crew except four, with all the women and children, and upwards of 100 soldiers, were drowned.

WATERTOWN, March 11.

In our last we mentioned the commencement of the bombardment of Boston, on Saturday and Sabbath day nights. The whole of Monday night the bombardment continued incessantly; our shot and shells were heard to make a great crashing in the town; and by a master of a vessel who came out of Boston on Friday last, we learn that one cannon ball took off six mens legs in one barrack; and that many were wounded in different parts of the town. The enemy returned the fire, from their batteries at West Boston, and from their lines on the Neck, very vigorously. They threw many shells into the battery at Lechmore's Point, one into the fort on Prospect Hill, and one or two as far up as fort No. 2. within a quarter of a mile of the college. On Monday night we had two killed, Lieutenant Mayo at Roxbury, by a cannon ball, and a man at Lechmore's Point by a shell, which with one or two wounded is all the loss, of any consequence, that we then sustained. After Monday night there was a cessation of firing on both sides till Saturday evening, when the bombardment and cannonading was greater than heretofore: Through the imprudence of five of our people who went on Dorchester Neck near Boston, and made a fire, four of them were killed, among whom we hear was Dr. Dale of Chockset, the names of the three others we have not heard; this is all the loss we sustained. We have not heard what loss they have met with in Boston, but we heartily sympathize for our distressed friends there.

'Tis reported the regulars are embarking.—Our friends on the Continent, we hope, will be on their guard.

On Monday night a body of the Continental troops took possession of two large hills at Dorchester, about a mile from the south part of Boston, where they are now strongly fortified. These are two of the heights which General Burgoyne said, in a letter to a noble Lord, commanded the town of Boston, and which he also said it was necessary the British troops should be possessed of.

We hear that a transport brig of 14 guns, laden with naval stores and provisions, bound from Boston for the ministerial fleet to the southward, ran ashore at the back of the Cape the beginning of last week: On seeing of which, a number of people went on board and dismasted

her, and afterwards ſafe unloaded her. She had on board 5 barrels of powder, and about 500l. ſterling in ſpecie, of which good care is taken.

Capt. Manley, and two other privateers, the beginning of laſt week took and carried into Portſmouth, a ſhip of about 300 tons burthen (being the 6th out of 8 from Whitehaven) laden with coal, cheeſe, porter, &c.

PROVIDENCE, March 9.

Saturday laſt the Hon. GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this colony adjourned to the laſt Monday in March inſt. then to be again convened at Eaſt-Greenwich.

The houſe have ordered a POWDER-MILL to be immediately erected at the expence of the colony, which is already begun, and will be compleated with all expedition.

NEWPORT, March 11.

We are well aſſured that ſeveral rank tories in this town are endeavouring to depreciate the paper currency of this continent, by aſking a higher price, in paper bills, for their rum, &c. than if paid in ſilver or gold.

About the beginning of laſt week, a ſhip, mounting 10 guns, with 30 men, ballaſt with ſhot, and having on board 14,600 dollars, ſeveral new cables, and other cordage, bound from Boſton to New-York, was caſt away at Cape-Cod, where the people from the adjacent parts ſecured the dollars, cordage, guns, &c

Capt. Remington, who paſſed by the eaſt end of Long-Iſland laſt Wedneſday, ſaw a very large ſhip on ſhore there, which had been ſtripped of her ſails and rigging.

Since a few of this day's papers were ſtruck off, we hear the above ſhip is a man of war of 64 guns.

Laſt Tueſday night we had a very heavy gale of wind here, from S. E. to S. W. in which a ſchooner belonging to the miniſterial fleet, lying near Hope, in this Bay, loſt both her maſts and bowſprit, one ſloop belonging to ſaid fleet loſt both her maſt and bowſprit, and another her maſt; and the Roſe, Capt. Wallace, was within a few rods of going aſhore on Hope. One tender ſunk at her anchors.

NEW-YORK, March 18.

Among the paſſengers in the packet, was Capt. Solomon Johnſon, who ſailed from New-Haven, in Connecticut, the 9th September laſt, in the ſloop Nancy, bound to Martinico, where he arrived the 23d of October, and ſold his cargo. On the 19th of November he ſailed from St. Euſtatia bound to New-Haven, and on the 29th ſprung a leak, which gained upon both pumps ſo faſt that next day there were 6 feet water in the hold, when providentially the Hillſborough, bound home from Jamaica, came up, took him and his company on board, and on the firſt of January arrived at Falmouth. Captain Johnſon ſays, that in Martinico, the inhabitants, univerſally, warmly eſpouſed the cauſe of the brave injured Americans, and wiſhed them to continue firm and united; which in a little time would certainly crown them with ſucceſs to the utmoſt of their wiſhes, and that they might be aſſured of powerful aſſiſtance in a ſhort time.

The ſhip Julius Cæſar, Capt. John Thompſon, of Cheſter Town, Maryland, having ſafely landed her cargo at Falmouth, received freight, and the ſhip being diſcharged, the men were alſo paid off and diſcharged, and the ſhip laid up ſafe in the harbour, for the benefit of thoſe concerned, viz. Meſs. Smyth and Ringgold, Cheſter Town, Maryland.

Extract of a letter from Montreal, February 26.

"We have nothing material new from camp before Quebec, except a few deſerters now and then, who report, that there is a ſcarcity of proviſions, and that General Carleton has promiſed the ſailors in town one hundred pounds each, and 200 acres of land, wherever they chooſe it, if they will defend the town till a reinforcement comes in the ſpring.---Captain Lamb and the reſt of the priſoners we hear are well."

By a letter from St. Euſtatia of the 22d of February, we learn, That part of the fleet of tranſports that was blown off this coaſt laſt fall paſſed by that iſland the day before, under convoy of the Viper ſloop of war; and that the remainder, about 20 ſail, were to follow the next day, under convoy of his Majeſty's ſhip the Experiment of 50 guns; that proviſions were very ſcarce and dear in the Weſt-Indies, flour being no leſs than 9d. per lb. at Coracoa, and all other ſorts of American produce in proportion.

Thurſday laſt the General Aſſembly of this province was prorogued to the 17th of April next.

The 15th of December, in the Houſe of Lords, Lord Mansfield, in ſpeaking of the reſtraining bill, "explained "the clauſe as clearly to the ſeizure of any American "veſſels which might be found either in the harbours or "in the docks. The bill impowered the King's ſhips to "ſeize them preciſely in the ſame manner as during "the wars with France and Spain, the veſſels of thoſe "nations had been ſeized in their reſpective harbour."

A very fine, and almoſt new ſhip, loaded with ſalt, lately ſeized in this port, by his Majeſty's ſhips on this ſtation, and ordered for Boſton, was, on Wedneſday, the 6th inſtant, caſt away on the rocks on Montock Point, at the eaſt end of Long-Iſland; the veſſel is entirely bilged, and the ſalt all run out; the people had great difficulty to ſave their lives; ſome of them being much bruiſed when taken out of the water. There were 14 men and an officer on board, who are all properly ſecured.

On Thurſday laſt about 6 or 700 of the mechanicks of this city convened at the houſe of David Philips, and from thence attended the Committee of Mechanicks to the Exchange, where they delivered a very pathetic addreſs of thanks to the general Committee of Inſpection, for their kind attention to the public good, in particular for their reſolve of the 9th inſtant, limiting the prices of Weſt-India produce.

ANNAPOLIS, March 14.

The public will expect ſome account of the alarm occaſioned by the man of war and her tenders; the following is the moſt perfect we can give at preſent.—On Tueſday the 5th of March, about ſeven in the evening, we received information, that a man of war and two tenders were coming up the Bay, and had taken a New-England ſchooner lying at the mouth of Patuxent—the wind blew hard at S. W. and the general expectation was, that they would be at this place in a few hours—the neceſſary diſpoſitions were made to receive them in caſe they thought proper to land, and expreſſes were diſpatched to Baltimore-town and other parts of the province, to communicate the intelligence—between twelve and one on Tueſday night the wind ſhifted, and came on a violent gale at N. W. and ſo continued all day on Wedneſday, during which time we had not any certain information where the veſſels were—on Thurſday there was a light breeze up the Bay, about two o'clock the veſſels hove in ſight, and at half paſt three came oppoſite this city with ſome prizes and ſtood up the Bay.—Off the mouth of this harbour they burnt a ſhallop loaded with oats, and in the evening anchored near the mouth of Patapſco. On Friday night we received intelligence, that the veſſels were the Otter ſloop of war and two tenders, and the general opinion was confirmed, that they were going to Baltimore to take or deſtroy the ſhip Defence.---On Saturday we expected to hear of an engagement, and the rather, as at Baltimore the celerity of their movements exceeded expectation---the Defence being got ready on Friday night, towed down the river, manned with a number of brave fellows, all of whom were Americans in their hearts, and moſt of them by birth; ſeveral ſmall veſſels attended, crowded with men to aſſiſt in caſe of an engagement, which in all probability would have been a bloody one.---Captain Nicholſon got under way early on Saturday morning, reſolved to retake Hudſon's ſhip (a large veſſel the Otter had made prize of, loaded with wheat and flour) and to engage the Otter, if ſhe moved to aſſiſt the tenders which guarded the prize—the morning was thick and hazy, and the Defence got nearer to them than was expected, before they diſcovered her bearing down upon them---thoſe on board the tenders appeared much alarmed, and puſhed off with precipitation, and on a ſignal given more hands were ſent by the Otter to aſſiſt in rowing them off, which was effected with difficulty---three or four ſmall prize veſſels were abandoned, beſides Hudſon's ſhip.---The Defence having manned the prize, and ſeeing the Otter get under way, clued up her courſes and prepared for battle, expecting her to come up, but the Otter having lain about two hours, as if wanting Capt Nicholſon to come down, at length bore away, and in the afternoon came to anchor off this port. Captain Nicholſon continued his ſtation ſome time, and having performed this gallant action returned with the prizes to Baltimore.

On Sunday morning the Otter ſloop and her tenders made ſail and went down the Bay, having reſtored ſeveral priſoners taken in a veſſel in the mouth of Patapſco.

The regulars, militia, and people in general, behaved with the greateſt ſpirit and alacrity.

PHILADELPHIA, March 20.

In CONGRESS, *Saturday, March* 16, 1776.

IN times of impending calamity and diſtreſs, when the liberties of America are imminently endangered by the ſecret machinations and open aſſaults of an inſidious and vindictive Adminiſtration, it becomes the indiſpenſible duty of theſe hitherto free and happy Colonies, with true penitence of heart, and the moſt reverent devotion, publicly to acknowledge the over-ruling providence of God; to confeſs and deplore our offences againſt him; and to ſupplicate his interpoſition for averting the threatened danger, and proſpering our ſtrenuous efforts in the cauſe of FREEDOM, VIRTUE and POSTERITY.

The Congreſs therefore, conſidering the warlike preparations of the Britiſh Miniſtry to ſubvert our invaluable rights and privileges, and to reduce us, by fire and ſword, by the ſavages of the wilderneſs and our own domeſtics, to the moſt abject and ignominious bondage: Deſirous, at the ſame time, to have people of all ranks and degrees duly impreſſed with a ſolemn ſenſe of God's ſuperintending providence, and of their duty devoutly to rely in all their lawful enterprizes on his aid and direction—do earneſtly recommend that Friday the 17th day of May next be obſerved by the ſaid Colonies as a day of HUMILIATION, FASTING and PRAYER; that we may with united hearts confeſs and bewail our manifold ſins and tranſgreſſions, and by a ſincere repentance and amendment of life appeaſe his righteous diſpleaſure, and through the merits and mediation of Jeſus Chriſt, obtain his pardon and forgiveneſs. Humbly imploring his aſſiſtance to fruſtrate the cruel purpoſes of our unnatural enemies; and by inclining their hearts to juſtice and benevolence, prevent the further effuſion of kindred blood. But if, continuing deaf to the voice of reaſon and humanity, and inflexibly bent on deſolation and war, they conſtrain us to repel their hoſtile invaſions by open reſiſtance, that it may pleaſe *the Lord of Hoſts, the God of Armies*, to animate our officers and ſoldiers with invincible fortitude, to guard and protect them in the day of battle, and to crown the Continental arms by ſea and land with victory and ſucceſs: Earneſtly beſeeching him to bleſs our civil rulers, and the repreſentatives of the people in their ſeveral Aſſemblies and Conventions; to preſerve and ſtrengthen their union; to inſpire them with an ardent diſintereſted love of their country; to give wiſdom and ſtability to their councils; and direct them to the moſt efficacious meaſures for eſtabliſhing the rights of America on the moſt honourable and permanent baſis—that he would be graciouſly pleaſed to bleſs all the people in theſe Colonies with health and plenty, and grant that a ſpirit of incorruptible patriotiſm, and of pure undefiled religion, may univerſally prevail; and this continent be ſpeedily reſtored to the bleſſings of peace and liberty, and enabled to tranſmit them inviolate to the lateſt poſterity. And it is recommended to Chriſtians of all denominations to aſſemble for public worſhip, and abſtain from ſervile labour on the ſaid day.

By order of the Congreſs,

JOHN HANCOCK, Preſident.

Atteſt. CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

In ASSEMBLY, March 15, 1776, A. M.

Mr. Speaker laid before the Houſe a Reſolution of the Honourable Continental Congreſs, which was read by Order, and is as follows, *viz.*

In CONGRESS, March 14, 1776.

"*Reſolved*, That it be recommended to the ſeveral "Aſſemblies, Conventions and Councils, or Committees "of Safety, of the United Colonies, immediately to "cauſe all Perſons to be diſarmed within their reſpective "Colonies, who are notoriouſly diſaffected to the Cauſe "of *America*, or who have not aſſociated, and refuſe to "aſſociate to defend by Arms theſe United Colonies "againſt the hoſtile Attempts of the *Britiſh* Fleets and "Armies; and to apply the Arms taken from ſuch Per"ſons in each reſpective Colony, in the firſt Place, to "the arming the Continental Troops raiſed in ſaid Colo"ny; in the next, to the arming ſuch Troops as are "raiſed by the Colony for its own Defence, and the Re"ſidue to be be applied to the arming the Aſſociators: "That the Arms, when taken, be appraiſed by indiffer"ent Perſons, and ſuch as are applied to the arming "Continental Troops be paid for by Congreſs; and the "Reſidue by the reſpective Aſſemblies, Conventions or "Councils, or Committees of Safety.

Extract from the Minutes,

CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary."

IN COMMITTEE of SAFETY, *March* 14, 1776.

All perſons that can give information to this Committee of SULPHUR ORE, in this or any neighbouring colony, are deſired to give ſpeedy intelligence; and this Board will receive propoſals from any perſon or perſons that are willing to engage in procuring SULPHUR for the public uſe. *Extract from the minutes,*

WILLIAM GOVETT, Secretary.

Bucks County, March 18, 1776.

The Committee of this county at their laſt meeting having adjourned to the 26th inſtant, it is apprehended that appointment will interfere with the Court of Oyer and Terminer to be held here; the members are therefore deſired to meet at John Bogart's, on the 27th of this month, at 10 o'clock in the morning.

JOSEPH HART, Chairman.

A letter from New-York, dated March 18, 1776, ſays, "Five Thouſand Regulars embarked at Boſton on the 10th inſtant, but we have no account of their ſailing."

On Thurſday the 14th inſtant died, in the 67th year of his age, Dr. PETER SONMANS, a man who poſſeſſed the feelings of humanity in a ſtrong degree, without the oſtentation of them; and on Saturday following his remains were attended to Chriſt-Church burial ground by a reſpectable number of his fellow citizens.

IN COMMITTEE, *Eaſton, March* 1, 1776.

We the ſubſcribers, inhabitants of Cheſtnut-hill and Hamilton townſhips, in the county of Northampton, being conſcious of our miſdemeanor and accumulated guilt, as well in entering into a written agreement and unlawful combination, to bid defiance to the laws of our country, and to reſiſt the authority of the civil Magiſtrates, as alſo in wickedly and maliciouſly defaming and ſlandering the Honourable Continental Congreſs, we therefore acknowledge ourſelves highly culpable, and aſk pardon of our offended countrymen, promiſing, in the moſt ſolemn manner, as a token of our ſincere repentance, to yield and deliver up into the hands and cuſtody of the Committee-men of the ſaid reſpective townſhips, within ten days from this date, all our arms, to be by them kept and detained until both by our words and actions it ſhall evidently appear, that we merit the favour and confidence of our fellow-citizens. *Johannes Ziglin*, ſen. *Johannes Ziglin*, jun. *Thomas James, Jacob Hipge, Edward Evans.*

Reſolved, That the above be publiſhed in the Engliſh and German news-papers.

Extract from the minutes,

ROBERT TRAILL, Clerk.

A QUANTITY of BARLEY, fit for SEED, to be SOLD. Enquire of MARMADUKE COOPER.

TO BE SOLD,

A HEALTHY *IRISH* SERVANT MAN, 20 Years of Age, has 5 Years to ſerve (he is willing to ſerve in the Continental Army.) For Terms, apply to *Theſe.* THOMAS APTEY, Keeper of the Work-houſe.

TO BE SOLD,

AN indented *IRISH* SERVANT WOMAN, who has three Years to ſerve. For Terms, apply to *Theſe.* CALEB EMLEN.

OFFICE for the Sale of REAL ESTATES.

TO BE SOLD,

THREE THOUSAND Acres of patented LAND, ſituated on Plumb creek, a branch of Crooked-creek, in the county of Weſtmoreland, in this province; in the neighbourhood of this land is a griſt-mill and ſeveral improvements, the creek runs through it dividing into ſeveral branches, and forming a large proportion of meadow ground, which may be eaſily cleared, and which, in richneſs of ſoil, is equal to any in the province; the upland is exceeding good, and the whole well watered, and adjoining excellent range for cattle. If the purchaſer ſhould incline at the expiration of five years to return the land, the ſeller will give him the money it ſhall now ſell for.

MONEY to be lent on intereſt, on good ſecurity, apply to MATTHEW CLARKSON, Notary Public and Conveyancer. ¶

Philadelphia, March 18, 1776.

ALL thoſe who are indebted to the late Partnerſhip of CALDWELL and WILSON, are requeſted to come immediately and ſettle their Accounts with Mr. ROBERT PURDY, Cheſtnut-ſtreet, near Front-ſtreet.---If not they may depend they will be put into a Lawyer's Hands.

To be SOLD by way of public VENDUE, on the premiſes, the firſt day of April next,

A VALUABLE plantation, and tract of land, containing about 124 acres, more or leſs, late the property of William Cox, deceaſed, ſituate in the townſhip of Willingborough, in the county of Burlington, and province of New-Jerſey, fronting on the north ſide of Rancocus creek; the province road from Amboy to Salem runs through it, and a ferry thereunto belonging commonly called The Old Ferry, about 5 miles from the city of Burlington, 4 from Mooreſtown, and 14 from Philadelphia.---There are on the premiſes, a good ceder plank houſe, two rooms on a floor, a good framed leanto on the back ſide, with two rooms, and a good cellar under the ſame, a good barn, ſtables, and other convenient out-houſes, a ſmall apple-orchard, about 60 acres of upland cleared, and a reaſonable quantity of meadow made and cleared, and more may be made; alſo an Iſland of Marſh in ſaid Rancocus-creek, containing about 5 acres; the remainder of the premiſes well timbered and watered, the ſoil very fertile for grain, and a pleaſant healthy place. The purchaſer may enter on the premiſes immediately after the ſale. The conditions will be made known at the time and place of ſale, where attendance will be given. JOHN MASON, and JACOB PERKINS, Executors. ¶

Glouceſter County, Third-Month 15, 1776.

There will be expoſed to SALE, by way of public VENDUE, on the 9th day of the Fourth-Month (April) next, at one o'clock in the afternoon, on the premiſes,

A LOT of LAND, ſituate in the town of Haddonfield, and county aforeſaid, bounding on the weſterly ſide of the road or ſtreet leading from the main-ſtreet to Cooper's ferries, containing upwards of 3 acres of land and meadow ground, on which there are a convenient two ſtory brick houſe, kitchen, hay-houſe, garden, orchard, and other improvements; alſo a convenient and long accuſtomed tan-yard, mill-houſe, bark-houſe, and other appurtenances for carrying on the tanning buſineſs in an extenſive manner, which will be ſold either together or in 2 or 3 lots, as may beſt ſuit thoſe inclining to purchaſe; one other lot of one acre and three quarters, bounding on the eaſterly ſide of the aforeſaid road, and on the main-ſtreet aforeſaid, which will be divided into three lots, each lot to have a convenient front on the ſtreet.

And on the 10th, being the day following, at one o'clock in the afternoon, will be expoſed to ſale, by way of public vendue, on the premiſes, a plantation and tract of land, containing 120 acres, ſituate in the townſhip of Deptford, and county aforeſaid, about 12 miles from Cooper's ferries and 3 miles from Woodberry, 30 acres of which cleared land, upwards of 7 acres whereof drained meadow, 20 acres of ſwamp, and the remainder woodland; there are on ſaid place a dwelling-houſe, barn, waggon-houſe and orchard. Any perſon inclining to view any of the aforeſaid premiſes before the days of ſale, may apply to the ſubſcribers, who will ſhew the ſame; the whole being part of the real eſtate of Iſaac Andrews, late deceaſed, and to be ſold in purſuance of his laſt will and teſtament, by MARK MILLER, and THOMAS REDMAN, Executors. ¶

TO BE LETT,

A PLANTATION, in the townſhip of Roxborough, about 6 miles from the city of Philadelphia, containing about 80 acres, with a ſtone houſe, barn, ſtables and milk-houſe, and an orchard with great variety of fruit; it may be entered upon immediately. Any perſon inclining to take the ſame muſt be well recommended for character, induſtry, and honeſty; none other need apply. For terms, apply to JOSEPH WARNER, Boat-builder, in Philadelphia. ¶

WAS left with the ſubſcriber, on the 5th day of March inſtant, and will be ſold by public VENDUE on the 10th day of April next, at his houſe in Whitemarſh townſhip, Philadelphia county, a bay HORSE, 15 hands high, 6 years old, blind of both his eyes. The owner is deſired to come and take him away before the day of ſale, or he will be ſold for his keeping. JAMES STRINGER. ¶

He is now playing the ſame game over again. Propoſals for a reconciliation, Commiſſioners, and what not, are now held out as the motion was laſt year, and for the ſame purpoſes.

The two parties now divide, each going to his own proper buſineſs. The King, and his ſecret Cabinet, to arraying the greateſt military force they can muſter, and diſpatching them to butcher us with the utmoſt expedition; Lord North, and the Parliament, to amuſe the nation, and diſtract and divide the colonies by every hypocritical art in their power. Thus the two plans go hand in hand; the one to divide, the other to conquer. Was it not preciſely ſo laſt year? Is it not ſo now? All ye timid, irreſolute, terrified and double faced Whigs, who have, by one means or other, crept into authority, open your mouths wide, and bawl ſtoutly againſt every vigorous meaſure until the Commiſſioners arrive. They will bring pockets well lined with Engliſh guineas; patents for places, penſions, and titles in abundance will attend them. Your palms will be firſt greaſed. You are the only men who can compleat the Parliamentary plans for raiſing an American revenue! COMMON SENSE ſays this winter is worth an age, rejoice that it is now paſt, do all in your power to paſs the ſpring in inactivity, and matters may yet go to your minds. Lord North's motion laſt winter did much for you; the Commiſſioners, equally improved, will probably crown your wiſhes. I ſhall thank God, and heartily rejoice, if your influence reach not the councils and proceedings of the Congreſs.

Depend on it, my countrymen, "*divide et impera*" is the inſtruction of every Commiſſioner, and his orders will be delay, divide, diſtract as much as poſſible, until the forces are all arrived, and they be in a condition to enforce their plan, then they will inform you that they have received orders, by which they are commanded to break off the treaty.

Too many have already loſt ſight of the King, and our real enemies, and are ſo faſcinated with the proſpect of Commiſſioners, that I begin to dread the ſnare, and cannot help crying out to you, Oh fooliſh Americans! Who has bewitched you, that you ſhould put any confidence in men who ſpill your blood with as little ceremony and reluctance, as a butcher would that of an ox. Is this all you know of the King and his Miniſters?

I know there is not a Tory now on the continent but hopes theſe Commiſſioners will effect their purpoſe, and are preparing to give them every poſſible aſſiſtance, and very few Whigs who have not their fears on the occaſion. Every thinking man on both ſides of the queſtion muſt, and does believe, that their ſole errand is to cajole and deceive, and that large promiſes, lies, bribery and corruption, are the means they will uſe.

I beſeech you to lend all your ſpirit and vigour to the Congreſs on the occaſion. Depend on it they will want it. Pray them to take one deciſive ſtep. To ſend orders to the Commander in Chief in each province to arreſt ſaid Commiſſioners, in the name of the Thirteen United Colonies, as ſoon as they ſet foot on ſhore, and ſend them, under ſtrong guards, to the Congreſs, with the ſtricteſt injunction that they be permitted to ſpeak with no man, beſides the guards and their ſervants, until they arrive in Philadelphia; and that as ſoon as they arrive, a deputation from Congreſs wait upon them, and aſk them this one plain queſtion: Have you authority to order home your fleets and armies immediately? If they anſwer in the negative, then to break off all farther conference, and ſend them off that inſtant to the enemy's head-quarters, with this information, That we ſcorn as much to treat with a dagger at our breaſts, as we diſregard their forces. If they anſwer in the affirmative, then to aſſure them, that as ſoon as the intelligence of their fleets and armies ſafe arrival in Great-Britain ſhall have reached America, the conference ſhall be opened, and not before. That they, in the mean time, ſhall be kept in ſafe cuſtody, treated like gentlemen, but not permitted to correſpond or converſe with the inhabitants before the treaty is compleated. Every hour ſpent in conference with Commiſſioners before this takes place, is an hour loſt to America and two gained to Great-Britain, beſides the immenſe damages which will ariſe from the powers of deceit and corruption, Engliſh gold, government promiſes, penſions, titles, and every art which malice, cunning and religious hypocriſy can invent or uſe, will be played off againſt our liberties. Theſe, judiciouſly applied, will convert ſuch among the great as have not virtue and integrity to withſtand their force; and you will be ſold without pocketing a penny of the price. Without pocketing did I ſay? Nay, yourſelves muſt pay it. Hard lot indeed! But if you have not virtue and ſpirit ſufficient to ſupport the Congreſs in executing theſe meaſures for your ſecurity, you deſerve it. I conclude by exhorting you to keep on the watch; loſe not ſight of the King and the army, by looking at the prime Miniſter, Parliament and Commiſſioners. One bold ſtroke will effectually defeat the machinations of the latter, and then the former will ſtand alone and unſupported, and a ſecond vigorous exertion will cruſh their evil deſigns againſt your liberties. Remember theſe Commiſſioners are the wooden horſe which is to take thoſe by ſtratagem whom twelve years hoſtility could not reduce. Act then like Laocoon; ſtrike the dagger into his breaſt, and never permit your credulity or inactivity to give the perjured Sinon an opportunity of making a worn out, deluded, or corrupted Whig the altar on which to offer up your dear bought privileges.

CASSANDRA.

P. S. I ſhall be told this would be treating the Commiſſioners too cavalierly. To this I anſwer, men coming on ſuch an errand cannot be treated too much ſo. Let any one ſhew the leaſt mark of a deſign in Adminiſtration to relinquiſh their claims, and I will treat them with the utmoſt ceremony and reſpect. I will publiſh an *ancient teſtimony* in their own favour, if it can be but conſidered as doing them honour. For though I truſt I ſhall never proſtitute a pure and holy religion to pay my court to men, though they be Kings, yet I will do any right thing for thoſe who come on ſo good an errand.

Eight Thouſand Acres of good Land,
In the County of Albany, and Province of New-York,
TO BE SOLD BY
CHARLES WHARTON. ¶

TO BE LETT,

THAT noted STORE, near the Brick Meeting, in East-Nottingham; it is without Exception one of the beſt Stands in all Nottingham, being on a Spot where the Roads from all Quarters center. Any Perſon inclining to rent is deſired to apply to the Subſcriber, at the Sign of the Croſs Keys, at ſaid Place, on or before the Firſt of May next.

¶ GEORGE LEGGET.

A SECOND EDITION OF
The WORKS of *JOHN WOOLMAN*
IS JUST PUBLISHED, and to be SOLD by
JOSEPH CRUKSHANK,
At his Printing-Office, in Market-ſtreet, between Second and Third-ſtreets, oppoſite the White Horſe, and near the Middle of the Butcher's Shambles:

Where alſo may be had

POOL's Annotations on the Bible, Burkitt on the New-Teſtament, the Life of Thomas Elwood, Daniel Stanton's Journal, Barclay's Catechiſm and Confeſſion of Faith, Hugh Turford's Grounds of a Holy Life, Memoirs of John Roberts, Shewen's Counſel to the Chriſtian Traveller, the Works of Flavius Joſephus, Weſley's Primitive Phyſic, Bartlet's Collection of approved Receipts for the Diſeaſes of Horſes, Dilworth's Schoolmaſter's Aſſiſtant, and Spelling-Book; Bonds, Powers of Attorney, Indentures, moſt other Kinds of Blanks, and Variety of Books and Stationary. ‖ 8 W.

Salem, New-Jerſey, March 7, 1776.

THESE are to give notice to the Creditors of the ſubſcribers, priſoners, confined for debt in the goal of the county of Salem, that they be and appear before Grant Gibbon, John Holmes, Andrew Sinnickſon, Robert Johnſon, John Mayhew, Eſquires, Judges of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas for the county of Salem, or any two of them, at the houſe of Joſeph Haynes, in Salem, on the 17th day of April next, to ſhew cauſe why we ſhould not be releaſed from our confinement, according to an Act of the General Aſſembly of New-Jerſey, intituled *An Act for the Relief of inſolvent Debtors.*

ABRAHAM VANNEMAN,
¶ TIMOTHY CONNER.

To be SOLD by public VENDUE, by the Subſcriber, living in Worceſter townſhip, on the Reading-town road, near the 21 miles Stone, on Tueſday, the 16th of April next, at 9 o'clock in the morning,

HORSES, Cows, Hogs, a Waggon, Sley, Plough and Harrow, ſundry Houſhold Furniture, and Implements of Huſbandry, &c. Attendance will be given at the time and place of Sale, and the Conditions made known, by

ADOLPH MYER.

N. B. All perſons having any demands on the ſubſcriber are deſired to bring in their accounts ſpeedily, in order to be ſettled and diſcharged; and thoſe who are indebted to him are alſo requeſted to make ſpeedy payment, as he is ſoon to move from the place. ¶

To be SOLD by PUBLIC VENDUE, on the 12th of the Fourth-Month next, at the late dwelling-houſe of Joſeph Wright, deceaſed,

A CERTAIN Meſſuage, Tenement, or Tract of LAND, lying and being in Middle-town, in the county of Bucks, containing as by the deed of ſaid land 180 acres, adjoining to land of Solomon Headly, Garrat Vanhorn, and others; with a dwelling-houſe, barn, ſtable, and ſeveral other conveniencies, about 140 acres of which are cleared, 15 or 16 acres whereof are mowable, and more may be made, the reſt woodland; there are likewiſe on the premiſes ſeveral acres of orchard. The terms of ſale will be made known at the time and place, by

§ JAMES MOON, and SOLOMON HEADLY, Executors.

THE FAMOUS HORSE, CALLED
YOUNG BELLSIZE,
Five Years old next Graſs,

WILL Cover MARES the approaching Seaſon, from the Firſt of April to the Firſt of Auguſt, at ROBERT KIRKBRIDE's, in New-Britain townſhip, Bucks county, within half a mile of Alexander Brown's tavern, at FOUR DOLLARS the ſeaſon; the money to be paid at the time of covering, and THREE POUNDS to inſure a foal; his colour may be ſaid chiefly to conſiſt of a fine black, variegated with a few white hairs; has a ſtar in his forehead, mounts 16 hands high, well limbed, and otherwiſe ſtrong and elegantly made, which renders him likely to get good colts, either for the ſaddle or gears; he trots, gallops and draws well, and runs ſwift; he is of good ſpirit and temper, and carries himſelf lofty, and is allowed by competent judges, to be ſuperior in figure and ſtrength to any half blooded horſe in the province. Good paſture will be provided for the mares, at Two Shillings per week, and proper care taken of them by JESSE REECE.

N. B. The ſaid Horſe was advertiſed to cover in Slab-town, Weſt-Jerſey, but for ſome reaſons the owner thought proper to move him to the abovеſaid place. ‖ 6 W.

Eaſt-Nottingham, March 12, 1776.

LIBERTY,

THAT noble young HORSE, 15 hands high, three quarters blooded, a bright bay, only 5 years old this graſs, will be lett to MARES this ſeaſon, at Mr. George Legget's, at the ſign of the Croſs-keys, near the brick Meeting-houſe, and at Mr. Richard Dowdle's, at Chriſtiana-bridge.----The time to commence as follows, the firſt week in April at Mr. Dowdle's, the ſecond week at Mr. Legget's, and ſo on, during the ſeaſon. The ſaid Horſe LIBERTY is to cover as follows, *Thirty Shillings* the ſeaſon, or *Twelve Shillings* the ſingle leap. The Horſe will fully recommend himſelf to any ſpectator, without giving a long preamble of his pedigree.-----He may be ſeen at Mr. LEGGET's, where good paſture may be had for mares, at *Two Shillings and Sixpence* per week, and good attendance will be given by JONATHAN DUNN. ¶

TAKEN up by John Ceſna, of Colerain townſhip, one ſtray Mare, 4 years old, a dark bay, about 12 hands high, has a blaze down her face, trots all.

Taken up by George Smith, of Colerain townſhip, one dark brown Horſe, 7 years old, branded on the near thigh G, about 12½ hands high, trots all.

Taken up by George Miller, of Bethel townſhip, one bay Horſe, 4 years old, branded on the near ſhoulder thus I, ſome white hairs in his face, about 13 hands high.

Taken up by James M'Mullen, of Quemahening townſhip, one ſorrel Mare, about 12½ hands high, 4 years old, branded on the near buttock H.

Taken up by George Crayal, of Bedford townſhip, one ſorrel Mare, 5 years old, branded with D on the near ſhoulder, 12½ hands high, trots all.

Taken up by James Piper, of Colerain townſhip, one roan Horſe, 13 hands high, 7 years old, trots all, a ſmall white on the off hind foot.

Taken up by William Stephens, of Bethel townſhip, one ſmall grey Mare, 6 years old, brands unknown, a ſmall white on the tip of each ſhoulder, trots all.

The above Horſes and Mares are taken up in Bedford county, and delivered to the ſubſcribers, as ſtrays; the owner or owners are hereby deſired to come, prove property, pay charges, and take them away, otherwiſe they will be diſpoſed of as the law directs. GEORGE WOODS, SAMUEL DAVIDSON, and GEORGE FUNK, Rangers. §

Philadelphia County, March 16, 1776.

WHEREAS Hannah Lukens, the Wife of William Lukens, of the Manor of Mooreland, hath eloped from him ſix Months ago; he takes this Method to forewarn the Public in general not to truſt her on his Account, as he is determined not to pay any Debts of her contracting, from the Date hereof. WILLIAM LUKENS. ¶

To be SOLD, or RENTED,
A VALUABLE PLANTATION, containing 100 Acres of Land, ſituated in Eaſt-Caln townſhip, Cheſter county, about 34 miles from Philadelphia; bounded by lands of James Miller, Roger North, and others; there are on ſaid plantation a good houſe and barn, and other out-houſes, a ſpring-houſe, over a never-failing ſpring, near the door, about 60 acres of clear land, the reſt well timbered, about four acres of meadow made, and as much more may be made and watered by a never-failing ſtream, a young orchard; the whole well watered and in good repair. Any perſon inclining to view ſaid plantation and know the terms, may apply to the ſubſcriber, in Providence townſhip, Philadelphia county, or John Sloan, on the premiſes. ¶ ROBERT TODD.

THREE DOLLARS Reward.

RUN away from the ſubſcriber, in Chriſtiana Hundred, New-Caſtle county, the 17th of February laſt, an indented ſervant lad, named *John Mewortbir*, aged 16 years and better, ſmall of his age, he was born in the Welſh tract, he has a down look, brown hair, and very talkative and ſaucy; had on a deep crowned hat, a dark lead coloured jacket, a pair of buckſkin breeches, too big for him and very ragged, brown ſtockings, old ſhoes, and an old tow ſhirt. Whoever takes up ſaid ſervant, and ſecures him, ſo that I may get him again, ſhall have the above reward, and reaſonable charges, paid by

¶ GEORGE STERN.

Philadelphia, March 11, 1776.

WAS taken from along ſide of the Hamburgh Stage, yeſterday morning, at Hollingſworth's wharff, a new Moſes built BOAT, her timbers are all mulberry, about 15 feet long and 5½ feet wide, her bottom and inſide both payed with turpentine, her gunwales were painted red, and her ſtern ſheets blue; ſhe had two painters to her, the one a large rope and the other ſmall; ſhe is quite new, not having been above a month built. Any perſon who will bring the ſaid boat to Mr. Thomas Hollingſworth, or John Wall, of this city, or to the ſubſcriber, ſhall have Twenty Shillings reward.

¶ GEORGE WIRT.

Barre townſhip, Bedford county, March 14, 1774.

WHEREAS I, the ſubſcriber, did, ſome time in December, 1774, contract with a certain Robert Burge for a tract of land, ſituate in Barre townſhip and county of Bedford, for which I entered into four ſeparate bonds, payable in four annual payments, viz. the firſt to be paid on the firſt day of May, 1775, the ſecond on the firſt of May, 1776, &c. the firſt of which bonds I have already paid; and whereas the ſaid Burge cannot make a ſufficient title to ſaid land, this is to forewarn all perſons not to take any aſſignment on either of ſaid remaining bonds, as I am determined not to pay either of them, until the ſaid Burge complies with his contract.

¶ ALEXANDER M'CORMICK.

THE moſt violent Toothach cured in a few minutes without drawing, by an eſſence which gives immediate eaſe therein; by applying this Eſſence outwardly it will remove all kinds of ſwelling in the cheeks or pain in the ears, and is an abſolute cure for the headach if ever ſo violent; it likewiſe eaſes the rheumatic pains in any part of the body; it is ſo harmleſs that it may at any time be made uſe of agreeable to the directions: This valuable Eſſence is prepared and ſold in bottles, at 5s. each, with particular directions in print for uſing it.

The true Italian Pomade de Venus, whoſe excellent virtues are well known in the great world, for preventing the hair from falling, preſerving it in its priſtine vigour and colour, and even in caſe of baldneſs, it cauſes the hair to grow thick and ſtrong, it beguiles time if uſed as a waſh, not ſuffering the leaſt appearance of wrinkles, ſcarf, or grey hairs, it plumps up the ſkin, adds a chearful bloom to the countenance, and though it gives a ſudden and healthful luſtre to the features, it is ſo innocent that it may be eat with the greateſt ſafety; it is excellent as a lip ſalve: This valuable acquiſition is ſold at 3s. per pot, with directions in print for uſing it.

Golden Medical Cephalic Snuff, excellent for relieving headachs, dimneſs of the eyes, and ſeldom or ever fails in curing recent deafneſſes, &c. &c. (Price 2s. 6d. per bottle) with directions for uſing it.

Britiſh Tooth-powder and Tincture for the Gums, it takes off foulneſs from the teeth and gums, renders them beautiful, faſtens ſuch as are looſe, prevents their decaying, and entirely cures the ſcurvy, and all diſorders of the gums. (Price 2s. 6d. per box, and 2s. 6d. per bottle.) To be ſold at SAMUEL DELLAP's Book-ſhop, in Market-ſtreet, between Second and Third-ſtreets, 3 doors above Strawberry-alley; by *Mr.* JAMES GALLIGAR, in Front-ſtreet, near the Drawbridge; Mr. THOMAS HUGGINS, Merchant, at the Head of Elk; and Mr. GABRIEL LEWINS, Jeweller, oppoſite the Market-Houſe, in Baltimore-Town.

BY virtue of a writ to me directed, will be expoſed to ſale, at public vendue, on Tueſday, the 26th of March next, on the premiſes, a certain tract of land, ſituate in the townſhip of Downs, in the county of Cumberland, containing 300 acres, with ſome improvements thereon; now in tenure of Daniel Ketchum; late the eſtate of Thomas Lippencott; ſeized, and taken in execution, at the ſuit of Thomas Morton, and to be ſold by DAVID BOWEN, Sheriff. ¶

Philadelphia County, March 8, 1776

To be SOLD by the Subſcribers, at public VENDUE, on Monday, the 25th inſtant, on the premiſes,

THE PLANTATION late belonging to LEONARD HENDRICKS, in Towamenſing townſhip, in the county of Philadelphia, deceaſed, near Skippack creek, about 25 miles from Philadelphia, containing 130 acres of land, about one half thereof cleared, about 10 acres thereof meadow, the remainder exceeding well timbered; there are on ſaid place a good ſquare log houſe, with 3 rooms and a kitchen, and a cellar under the whole, a frame barn and log ſtabling, a well of conſtant water near ſaid houſe, a good bearing apple orchard, and other fruit trees. The title is indiſputable. The purchaſer may have reaſonable allowance for payments. Any perſon that may incline to view the place, may apply to Herman Hendricks, in Whitpain townſhip, or to George Reiff, near ſaid place. There will be ſold at the ſame time, two mares, a colt near 2 years old, cows, ſheep and ſwine, &c. and ſundry houſhold goods. The ſale to begin at ten o' clock in the forenoon; where due attendance and reaſonable credit will be given, by HERMAN HENDRICKS, and GEORGE REIFF, Executors. ¶

GLOUCESTER, MARCH 5, 1776.

THE GENERAL LOAN-OFFICE, for the County of Gloucеſter, WILL BE OPENED at the Court-Houſe at Gloucеſter, on Second-Day, the 25th Day of this inſtant March. The Commiſſioners will be ready to receive Borrowers, qualified according to the Directions of an Act of the General Aſſembly of the Province of New-Jerſey, intituled, *An Act for ſtriking One Hundred Thouſand Pounds, in Bills of Credit, and directing the Application thereof*; at which Time and Place Attendance will be given according to Law, by JOHN HINCHMAN, JOHN GILL, and JOSEPH HUGG, Commiſſioners. §

ALL perſons indebted to the eſtate of ANDREW CROCKET, deceaſed, late of the Northern Liberties of the city of Philadelphia, are deſired to make ſpeedy payment to ANN CROCKET, in the Manor of Mooreland, Philadelphia county, or EMANUEL EYRE, in Kenſington; and all thoſe who have any demands againſt the ſaid eſtate, are deſired to bring in their accounts to ANN CROCKET, Executrix. ¶

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